

July 1, 1999



7-13-99

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Jeffrey I. Auerbach
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/181,601; Filed: October 29, 1998
For: **Linking Gene Sequence to Gene Function by
Three Dimensional (3D) Protein Structure
Determination**
Inventor: Stephen Anderson, *et al.*
Our Ref: 06137.0021.US02

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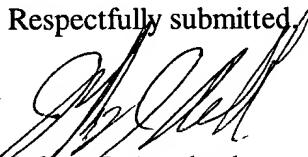
Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) are the following documents:

1. An Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Form PTO-1449;
3. The fifty (50) documents listed on Form PTO-1449;
4. A copy of the Search Report issued by the PCT International Searching Authority; and
5. A Return Postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey I. Auerbach
Registration No. 32,680

Enclosures

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Stephen Anderson, *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/181,601

Filed: October 29, 1998



Art Unit: 1643

Examiner: Unassigned

Atty. Docket: 06137.0021.US02

For: **LINKING GENE SEQUENCE TO
GENE FUNCTION BY THREE
DIMENSIONAL (3D) PROTEIN
STRUCTURE DETERMINATION**

Information Disclosure Statement

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will consider information that had been cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application relied on under 35 U.S.C. §120. 1138 OG 37, 38 (May 19, 1992).

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee is required.
- 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
 - a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).
 - b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2).
 - c. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. It is hereby requested that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i).

a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).

b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2).

4. Relevance of the non-English language document(s) is discussed in the present specification.

5. Six (6) of the documents were cited in a corresponding foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information.

6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:

7. The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. _____, filed _____, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination.

8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in Application No.

_____, filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and to indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey I. Auerbach (Reg. No.32,680)

Date: 7/1/99

HOWREY & SIMON
Box No. 34
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2402
(202) 783-0800

MAR 1 1999

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

HOWREY & SIMON

MAR 01 1999

HOWREY & SIMON
From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

RECEIVED

To: JEFFREY I. AUERBACH
HOWREY & SIMON
1299 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W., BOX 34
WASHINGTON, DC 20004-2402

Response Due 4/25/99 (06137-0021-PC02)
Rule 1.56 IDS Due 5/25/99 (06137-0021-
US02)

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of Mailing
(day/month/year)

25 FEB 1999

Applicant's or agent's file reference
6137.21.PC02

FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.
PCT/US98/22839International filing date
(day/month/year)

29 OCTOBER 1998

Applicant
RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

1. The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the international application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
 no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. Further action(s): The applicant is reminded of the following:

Shortly after 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in rules 90 bis 1 and 90 bis 3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within 19 months from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later).

Within 20 months from the priority date, the applicant must perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before all designated Offices which have not been elected in the demand or in a later election within 19 months from the priority date or could not be elected because they are not bound by Chapter II.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer
NASHAAT T. NASHED

Telephone No. (703) 308-0196

06137-0021-PC02

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 6137.21.PC02	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US98/22839	International filing date (day/month/year) 29 OCTOBER 1998	(Earliest) Priority Date 29 OCTOBER 1997
Applicant RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).
2. Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).
 - 3. The international application contains disclosure of a nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing and the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing
 - filed with the international application.
 - furnished by the applicant separately from the international application,
 - but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.
 - transcribed by this Authority.
 - 4. With regard to the title,
 - the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 - the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:
 - 5. With regard to the abstract,
 - the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 - the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.
 - 6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is:
 - Figure No. _____
 - as suggested by the applicant.
 - because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
 - because this figure better characterizes the invention.
 - None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US98/22839

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Please See Extra Sheet.

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-14 and 17

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US98/22839

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : C12Q 1/00; G01N 33/00
US CL : 435/4; 436/86

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 435/4; 436/86

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

APS, STN: Medline, Caplus, Biosis, Embase, and wipids

Search Terms: NMR, protein structure, identification, domain, gene, structure, stable, exon

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	BRANDEN et al. 'Introduction to Protein Structure' New York: Garland Publishing, Inc. 1991, see pages 11-31 and 43-57.	1-14 and 17
A	WUTHRICH, K. NMR - This other method for protein and nucleic acid structure determination. Acta Cryst. Section D. 01 May 1995, Vol 51, pages 249-270, see the entire document.	1-14 and 17
A	GO, M. 'Protein structures and split genes' in: Advances in biophysics. Edited by Ebashi et al. Tokyo: Elsevier, 1985, Vol. 19, pages 91-131, see the introduction.	1-14 and 17
Y	HOLM et al. Mapping the protein universe. Science 02 August 1996, Vol. 273, pages 595-602, see the abstract.	1-14 and 17

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T*	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance		
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*X*	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Y*	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	*&*	document member of the same patent family
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

09 FEBRUARY 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

25 FEB 1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

NASHAAT T. NASHED

Telephone No. (703) 308-0196

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US98/22839

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	PATTIHY et al. Introns and exons. Curr. Opin. Struc. Biol. 1994, Vol. 4, pages 383-392, see abstract.	1-14 and 17
A	SANDBRINK et al. APP gene family. Alternative splicing generates functionally related isoform. Ann. N. A. Sci. 1996, Vol.777, pages 281-287.	1-14 and 17

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US98/22839

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION WAS LACKING

This ISA found multiple inventions as follows:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid.

Group I, claims 1-14, and 17, drawn to a method for determining a biochemical function of a protein domain or polypeptide domain of unknown function.

Group II, claims 15 and 16, drawn to an integrated system comprising several computers, an NMR spectrometer, and protein expression laboratory.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The special technical feature of the invention of Group I is the determination of the biochemical function of a protein or a polypeptide domain with unknown function, which is different from that the integrated system of the invention of Group II.